

**PUBLIC HEARING
OF THE BRISTOL COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY**

Wednesday, January 22, 2014

450 Child Street, Boardroom, Warren, RI

Chairman Klepper called the hearing to order at 6:00 pm.

Executive Director Pamela Marchand, Legal Counsel Joseph Keough and the following Directors were in attendance at the commencement of the hearing:

Robert Allio, Paul Bishop, William Gosselin, Allan Klepper, Bradford Louison, Raymond Palmieri, Sr., Frank Sylvia

Directors Absent: John Jannitto, Georgina Macdonald

Chairman Klepper stated the Board would be considering a proposed 4% rate increase tonight.

Summary of Presentation by the Executive Director P. Marchand –

Executive Director P. Marchand presented an overview of BCWA for the coming year. A strategic plan for BCWA was developed a few years ago, the mission of BCWA is pretty much consistent with previous models, to provide the highest quality of water to our customers and also to be a regional water utility model for other water utilities. BCWA has a single water source now, an aging infrastructure system, and is using the Mass. supplies as a backup only in case of emergency. For a secondary source, BCWA is planning a connection to Pawtucket Water through East Providence. BCWA currently has a program to clean and line 60 miles of main within the next 20 years, with additional projects to improve water quality, replace hydrants and upgrade pump stations; and improve the efficiency of operations through a computerized data collection and information access with a new computer management system.

A 4% rate increase will increase an average annual residential bill from \$504 to \$524, or \$0.39 per week.

Chairman Klepper stated that an article in the local paper had falsely stated that the Board had already voted on the 4% increase. The vote will be taken tonight. The correct information was sent to the newspapers, for a paid article. The newspaper carried the same wrong article again this week.

BCWA's 20 year infrastructure plan will need to be financed through rate increases as necessary stated the Chairman. Those increases will be kept to a minimum by putting off the payment of bond principal until after the present bonds are paid up.

There was no public input.

There being no further business, the hearing was adjourned at 6:20 pm.

Allan C. Klepper
Chairman